REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-18, 52-70, 99-106, and 112-114 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Preliminary Amendment is requested to put the divisional application in substantially the same condition as its parent Application No. 09/842,021.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: January 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald P. Kananen

Registration No.: 24,104 Attorney for Applicant

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501 Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 955-3750 Fax: (202) 955-3751 Customer No. 23353